WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Through a competitive process that will fast-track water conservation and recycling projects, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program aims to generate significant water supply, water quality and ecosystem benefits in the short term.

GOALS

- Reduce water demand through "real water" conservation

- Improve water quality by altering volume, concentration, timing and location of return flows

- Improve ecosystem health by increasing in-stream flows where necessary to achieve targeted benefits

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Awarded $13.3 million in water conservation grants and loans for 65 projects in 2001—including 37 urban and 28 agricultural projects. These projects were geographically diverse and were matched with over $9.1 million in local funding

  - Urban projects range from a voucher incentive program for clothes washers to more efficient landscape water programs

  - Agricultural projects range from canal lining to buried drip irrigation

  - Funded projects will collectively save 30,000 acre-feet of water, improve water quality, and save energy

- Awarded two water recycling grants

- Established 60 out of 200 quantifiable objectives for agricultural water use efficiency actions (on track to develop 30 more by 2003)

- Convened Independent Review Panel to assist in developing a definition of appropriate water measurement

- Successfully negotiated cooperative agreement with the Agricultural Water Management Council, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources to support locally cost-effective agricultural water conservation

- Laid groundwork for establishing a Water Use Efficiency Public Advisory Committee, approach to WUE monitoring and Urban BMP Certification

- Developed draft agricultural WUE milestones as part of overall assurances framework

- Forged an effective water use efficiency team with key CALFED agencies

PUBLIC AND PEER REVIEW

- Independent Review Panel for Agricultural Measurement

- Agricultural Measurement Ad-hoc Group

- Urban Certification Ad-hoc Group